

# Now paraquat must carry a 'poison' label

By Science Correspondent

STRICTER controls over the sale of the weed-killer paraquat—which has caused the death of 75 people in the past eight years—were announced by the Government yesterday.

Home Secretary Mr Robert Carr has ordered that from March 1 it will be an offence for any chemist or retailer to sell the chemical to unauthorised users—mainly farmers.

Each sale will have to be recorded in the official Poisons Book, which allows police to track down the distribution of any dangerous substance.

The Daily Mail has campaigned for tighter restrictions on the supply of paraquat, for which there is no known antidote.

Now it will be illegal for anyone buying the weed-killer to 'decant' it into bottles for home use.

Many of the deaths have resulted from children drinking diluted paraquat from lemonade bottles stored in garden sheds.

Under the new Poisons Act all paraquat must be stored in containers labelled 'Poison'. Anyone found keeping it in ordin-

## PARAQUAT

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### Should this killer be allowed?

From the Daily Mail of August 30, 1972.

ary bottles will be liable to prosecution.

The rules apply only to the full-strength paraquat marketed as Gramoxone by the firm which discovered and manufactures it, ICI. The weaker version for home-gardens, weedol, is not affected.

The Government measures were welcomed yesterday by the Pharmaceutical Society.

Said ICI: 'We hope this will be a major step towards ensuring the safe use of paraquat.'

Demands that paraquat should be banned altogether have been rejected by the Government as impracticable. The chemical is virtually irreplaceable as the world's most effective weed-killer.

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